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Who Are You, Class of 2006

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Who Are You - 2003

Once again, we express a sincere welcome to the class of 2006 - all 163 of you. I thought it would be appropriate, this morning, to tell you, and the faculty, who you are. Can you guess who is who? Well —you've got the next three years to find out!

From California, from all over the country, big cities and small, you've come to us from twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia. Of the 56% of you from out of state, the largest number of you from any one state except Virginia are from....Texas. There are 11 of you from that great state. North Carolina has sent us 9 of you, 8 are from New York, 7 from Pennsylvania, 6 from New Jersey, 5 each from Illinois Georgia and Florida. Maryland follows with 4, Michigan 3, and two each are from Massachusetts, Minnesota, California, Delaware, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and South Carolina.

Fifty-seven (57%) of this entering class is male - up from 50% last year. This class's average age is 24 - the same as last year. One of you is 41 years old. Twenty-one (13%) of you are age 30 or over. Sixteen of you

are married (at least at the time of your application) and quite a few of you have children.

Applications were received, this year, from applicants in 18 countries.

While 2431 graduates of 497 US colleges and 31 foreign universities applied to this Law School. This is 55 more schools than last year and 86 more schools than 2 years ago. The greatest number of you - 21 are graduates of UVA and 9 are from William & Mary. The University of Richmond and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill are tied with 7 each from these two schools. Seventy four additional universities are represented by you in this particular class, for a total of 78

Universities represented in this class. Nineteen of you have advanced degrees - one with a PhD. Eighty-Nine, or 56% of you have been out of college for at least one year - two of you graduated in 1992. Two of you are starting law school at age 20 - one of you was home schooled until going away to college. Your median LSAT score of 160 places you in the top 17% of the 386,132 test takers during the past three years. The top quarter of your class achieved an LSAT of 162 which places them in the

top 12% of all test takers over the same period. Seven of you scored in the top 5% of test takers and 19 scored in the top 10% of all test takers. Can you believe that the *bottom* quarter of this class (in terms of LSAT score) actually scored 158 which is in the top 22% of these same test takers? This class brings to the Law School the highest GPA in our school's 133 year history. The top quartile of your class has a GPA of 3.55; your median GPA is 3.36. One of you achieved a GPA of 3.96; 20 of you have a GPA over 3.70. Forty-five different majors are represented with the greatest number - 32 graduating in - no surprise - Political Science. Twenty two of you were History majors and 16 majored in Economics and 16 in Psychology. Fifteen of you graduated with Latin Honors and 5 of you were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. A full 35% (13% more than last year's class) of you had undergrad scholarships - some several. Many, many of you have been on the Dean's List. You represent membership in a variety of prestigious honor societies. By the way.....there are so many of you there will be a Tri Delt meeting in room 101. Four of you have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Thirteen of you are John Marshall Scholars - our most prestigious

scholars selected by a blue ribbon panel chaired by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. Many of you have lived, worked and studied abroad in such countries as Japan, England, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Canada, Russia, Scotland, Pakistan, India, Australia, Spain, Indonesia, France and China. You are fluent in Arabic, Hebrew, German, French, Chinese, Punjabi, Spanish, Hindi, Gujerati, and Pushtu. One of you is a citizen of China, one of India, 2 of Korea. One of you was born in Russia. Several of you are dedicated EMTs and give many, many hours in emergency service. Many have served their country in the armed forces one of you most recently recalled to active service after 9/11. I have the greatest admiration for two of you who lived and worked on farms for many years.

You have had some pretty amazing careers pre law school. Can you believe 19 of you have been paralegals? Five engineers - electrical, mechanical and software sit among you. Teachers too, including one who taught children with emotional and behavioral disorders. One of you served in the Navy as a Legal Officer, 2 of you have worked as

patent examiners in the US Patent and Trademark Office, another works with a University company that takes new ideas, inventions and methods generated at the university and patents or licenses them to promote further advancement. It will be interesting, in your environmental law class, to hear from the student who worked one summer as a Mosquito Technician. I suspect the Parole Officer sitting in your class who is also a sex offender specialist will have a lot to offer.....of course it's a secret that she's certified to carry concealed weapons. Or, here's a fascinating career.....someone in your class worked as an actor/director/producer with a theater company founded to expose the community to new playwrights and under-exposed minorities, specifically women. Another served both as a political director for the North Carolina Speaker of the House and a marketing associate for the Dave Matthews Band.

Well.....we said there was great diversity in your class! Impressive careers abound in your class with people doing such interesting things as teaching (and winning awards for excellence), environmental science, government, politics; experts in computer science. There is a personal fitness consultant, a naval chemist who spent years in a Nuclear Power

Program; bartenders and wait staff, a traveling nurse who has worked with many of the most renowned medical personnel in the nation; a missionary who taught Hungarian to other missionaries; a phlebotomist who says she's a "blood sucker" and who's often called, "vampire lady; someone who founded and operated a baseball company. One of you has attempted to win the Nobel Prize in Physics with the study of mechanism of Gravity and one of you has been nominated for a Fulbright Scholarship. Wouldn't you like to meet the fellow who has done analysis of intellectual property and patent disputes related to the computer field? Inquiring minds might want to speak to the woman who worked for the Secret Service or the torch bearer for the '02 Olympics...who knows what we could learn. Oh - you know who you are.....the SBA would like to meet the bar tending instructor and the bartender/manager of "one of the top 10 bars in the USA". Professor Heen and the rest of us will want to know who the tax accountants are among you - and the CPA who volunteers to do tax returns. Wouldn't you love to have had the career of the writer, producer and remixer of music for independent and major label recording artists, a major motion picture and a series of

exercise videos? I know the faculty will be as curious as you, to know which of you was arrested for participating in IMF/World Bank protests.

Politics seem to entice a great many of you with you demonstrating your interest by working on political campaigns and being members of staffs of Congressmen and Senators. Governors Fellows, legislative aides, judicial interns, senate interns - lots of you have made your political mark. Two of you interned at the White House.

You have a serious commitment to public service. You gave thousands of hours to Women's Shelters, Rape Crisis Centers, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, working with the abused, infirm and elderly, in soup kitchens, shelters and with crisis hot lines. You've worked countless hours in hospices, with sexual assault victims, taught Vietnamese refugees and one of you has taught writing and reading to migrant workers and their children. It's heartwarming to know that many among you have taken missionary trips; served the homeless; maintained hiking trails. You've raised millions of dollars to help

eradicate disease and help kids with cancer and muscular dystrophy.

One of you has already established a trust fund in India to provide financial help to needy students and the elderly with a meager source of income. Those of you who have given so much of yourselves are surely our hope for the future!

Excitement isn't missing from your lives. Many of you have not only played a variety of sports but have volunteered to coach underprivileged children so that they too might learn and love your sport. Some of you played at the varsity level in baseball, golf, crew soccer and tennis. One of you collects comic books. Lots of you have been accomplished debaters. Another of you, despite a fear of heights, went sky diving. I wonder if you'll spot the male model amongst you? Some of you ride competitively. Running marathons, track and field, cross country, you excel. Now listen up - there's t-shirts at stake....there's a ringer out there that you should draft for your intra mural soccer team. This is it! This fellow was a 4 year starter on a nationally ranked soccer team. We also have a female varsity soccer player. I'm telling you - we can beat

those undergrads this year! If athletics don't impress you, we also have, in your class, a 2 time ACC Chess Tournament champion.

One of you wrote that the following words have given her the strength to pursue a higher degree and I suspect these words may inspire you too:

“Dream what you want to dream, go where you want to go, be what you want to be because you only have one life and one chance to do all the things you want to do.”

And so it goes - 163 different stories and 163 different factoids as they're sometimes called around here. But, half the fun is getting to know those who are going to become your life-long friends so I'll stop now and wish you good luck and good fun on the adventure upon which you are embarking.